432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.
Aug. 15, 1943

Hello, Folks!-

Sunday August 15th! - Guess were I home I'd be "sweatin' out" pay day tomorrow, - but being as how thats something that doesn't effect me any more, - I'm not losing a bit of sleep over it!

Today is a real day over here. - Hot as always - but the clouds are just like they are oft times in the states. - A real treat to see something American Again! - And that reminds me of Bob. Hope! - A couple of jokes he pulled - in refrence to his hotel room in a near by town. - He said he had a small clothes closet shared with an Arab - that's the only way he could get any sheets in his room! - Another one - he said he put in a complaint to the manager about the lack of air in

his room - so the manager sent
the clerk up to blow thru the
key-hole! Every now and then
Bob Hope would stop and do this
funny grin, showing his teeth. - After
several times he told us, "I've been
using so much Pepsodent that I
can take my 'Irium' straight, now!"
He was quite a card - and you can
see how much we enjoyed him.
Frances Langford was very pretty and
sang several songs for us. Together
they sure went over with a bang!
We went looking for Jim Carey - our
former navigator who was injured in a
jeep accident. - Searched 3 or 4 hospitals
on his trail before they told us they had taken
him further back from the lines. - No
one seemed to have any records as to
where - he's just gone. - Golly - what a
system - for all we know he could
go back to the states and no one would
ever know the difference! -

7 Friday August 20th. —

I didn't get around to finishing this Sunday - so it's just been hanging fire, so to speak! - The first part of the week I was down with the North African form of diarrhea! - And sufice to say, had I been in the spirit to write, - I wouldn't have had the time! I had to take another course of Sulfaguanadine from the Doc, - but a couple of days saw me O.K. again. - I don't try Mama's "Black berry & Ginger" over here - rather use the Doc as long as he is available. - This Sulfa stuff goes after the germ its self - curing that way. - It's not like a slight case one gets occasionally in the states. - Over here - when the germ has attacked all the food in the intestines, it starts after the intestines, themselves! - And take it from us over here - "it aint no joke". - 'Course, we have our own name for

the malady - but don't think Ma would particularly appreciate our "terminology"!

Every once in awhile, - <u>twice</u> to be exact, - the Red Cross sends a <u>show</u> out to our field to entertain us. The performers are mostly French - and once in a great while some of 'em are quite good; - but the good ones are more than over-balanced! - Some attempt to sing and talk in English - which is pretty funny - tho it's really not supposed to be, and some stick straight to their French. For instance, - the other night one of the gals sang "She'll be coming around the mountain when she comes". - After several verses - she hit the one about the rooster, 'cept she sang: - "We will kill the old <u>dead</u> Rooster when she comes!" - We all just couldn't help roaring with laughter at that. - After she sang it thru once, she asked us to sing it <u>with</u> her. - We did - even to "killing the old dead

3/ rooster!" - Don't believe she ever caught on, - but of course it served ~~its~~ its purpose of entertaining us - so what the heck!

Something is always cropping up that strikes me funny, it seems. - The other day I was talking to the "tower" in preparation for "taking off" when he came back with something that struck me. - It wasn't what he actually said, - but "radio procedure" is supposedly so cut and dried, I just couldn't help but think of the pilot's reaction receiving a similar ~~reactio~~ reply as I did - a pilot in the states, I mean. - It went something like this: - Me, - "Tower from 293, number one in take-off position, am I clear to go, 293, over". - The answer, "293 from Tower, do not take off ------(an Arab is riding a horse down the runway!" - I admit - it doesn't look funny on paper, - but if you could see our so called runways & things we are continually finding on 'em, and compare them to set procedure on nice concrete runways back home - well, you could imagine the reactions of those home,

couldn't you? - One day our mission was delayed taking off by a herd of sheep & cows milling on the runways! - I suppose the roar of the engines sorta got'em out of hand of the shepherds & stuff - but after a couple of planes took off, they just crowded over the runway - and nothing would move 'em til some of the ground crews jumped into jeeps and became mechanized cowboys - giving them gentle hints with the bumpers! What a life - .. after the runway was cleared - the planes continued taking off - even if a little late!

I went swimming again the other day - Spent the afternoon on the beach - and stopped back in town for supper. - A real gadabout. - Saw something that started me wondering - Ma, what sort of fish does "cuttle-bone" come from? (Isn't that the stuff you used to put in the canary cage for the bird to sharpen its bill on?) All along the shore were these cuttle-bones - just as

4/ you might buy them in a store. - One side had the ~~sa~~ hard shell on it, and the other side was like wet chalk mutations. - In the soft side you could trace the markings - graining - just as if it were actually fish meat! - It was the first I knew it came that way. - I suppose I had thought the stuff was manufactured, if I had ever given it any thought, before!

Got a regular letter from Pop - dated 7-18, one from Sister - 8-2, and a V mail from Sister, 8-3 - yesterday! - Guess I'm some pumpkin, eh? Don't know how Sister's letter written on my birthday got here so fast! - It made as good time as her V mail one. - Maybe I'm mistaken about Air Mail. - Maybe they do send it if there's room aboard the planes - or maybe it just happened to hit the boats right. - Daddy's was about the usual time for a regular letter to reach me! Did I ever thank Daddy for his Birthday card? It came about a week after the others. Also got a V mail from Brother + Fred written about the same time. - Mr. & Mrs. Speer sent me a very nice card, too. - A general "good luck" card.

Daddy, - don't you worry about censors saying

anything about the length of your letters. In truth, I don't believe they censor out going mail to us over here at all. - Glad you happened to see those pictures in Life. - They are pretty close to us and it gives you more of an idea where we are near. - 'Course, sometimes we might move around, and you never know it, 'cause our address is permanent - just follows us around!

Sister, I enjoyed your letter, too. - It's nice to have a big letter to sit down to once in a while! Glad you got the money, and in time for your birthday, too! -

Thanks for all the trouble my cake caused you. - You can rest assured it will be in an edible condition, regardless, once it gets to us! The fruit cake sounds good if it can be done. - "Fitz" has had several come thru - and in good condition.

Glad Mrs. Ames called - I wish you could know them. - I feel honored that they should inquire about me! - I thought I had written them a note since coming over-seas - but maybe I haven't. - I'll drop 'em another one of these days! -

- - Well, - more next time -

Love,
Frank